

# THE SCENE



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NEWS & UPDATES FROM COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

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[www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa](http://www.fs.usda.gov/crgnsa)

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## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

The latest incarnation of the **bridge crossing Eagle Creek** near the picnic areas is nearing completion. The bridges have had a dynamic history: in 1997, the Eagle Creek Suspension Bridge was rebuilt after an ice storm generated an ice dam flow that destroyed the previous structure.

Twenty years later, the Eagle Creek Fire partially failed the suspension bridge, and a subsequent storm irreparably damaged the remaining structure, leading to its complete removal. Three years later, just as salmon throng up the creek below, the finishing touches are being applied on the 160-ft, H-Style Weather Steel Truss bridge.



Get ready to apply for a seasonal job with the USFS or NPS during a **virtual event** to teach participants how to apply for upcoming job opportunities.

**The 5-7 p.m. Oct. 28 event** provides those interested in employment to learn about seasonal jobs! Participants can prep their materials for when 2021 US Forest Service seasonal positions in Washington and Oregon open for application on USAJOBS.gov Oct. 30th- Nov. 9th.

**Register for the virtual event at**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-lands-virtual-recruitment-event-wa-registration-119298439845>

## Salmon

### BY THE NUMBERS

It's spawning season for salmon in the CRGNSA! Spawning is the beginning of a long uphill journey for these amazing creatures. Only a small portion of eggs laid survive to adulthood.

3,000-7,000  
eggs laid

800

Juvenile salmon (fry)  
prepare to migrate

80

smolt (young adult salmon)  
make it to the ocean

1-2

adult salmon return to natal  
streams to spawn

Our CRGNSA Trail Crew took advantage of the last of the season's sunshine and mild weather to haul 640lbs of mortar a mile up the (still closed) Eagle Creek Trail in order to bolster the outside edge of the trail with a wall in a particularly narrow and precipitous spot. Five days later the first good autumnal rainstorm brought down a debris flow that knocked out a quarter of the new wall.

So it goes in the Gorge, a dynamic and ever changing landscape makes for an exciting trail season!



## FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

The large scale wildfires that impacted our communities this season accentuated the critical need to enhance our fuels treatment efforts. Our fuels treatment projects can have a huge effect when battling large scale fires; giving firefighters a place to make a stand and fight back.

The Scenic Area continues to work on long term fuels treatment projects that are strategically placed and designed to give firefighters a more open environment that can knock the fire out of the canopy and allow more opportunities for control. We also get an added benefit from these fire breaks, we create resiliency for the ecosystems they are surrounded by. This year we were able to continue our prescribed burning efforts, but there is a need to do far more. This year we completed 95 acres of underburning in the Tracy Hill area, and 51 acres in the Courtney Road area. Both of these areas are between Bingen and Lyle Washington. Our prescribed burns are very carefully planned events that need many things to come into alignment.



These include just enough moisture in the soil and duff layers to protect the trees we are trying to save. We also need to have the vegetation we are trying to burn dry enough to allow a controlled, backing fire. On top of all that we work closely with smoke forecasting meteorologists to pick the perfect weather window that allows the vast majority of our smoke to disperse over large enough areas to have very little impact on people in the area. It has taken over eight years of trying to find the perfect window to burn some of the units we burned this year and luckily the variables lined up!

These prescribed burns, as well as thinning efforts, are a key part of building resiliency of our ecosystems against the negative effects of large wildfires. We will continue to put our best foot forward in protecting our communities and natural resources by fighting fire with fire.